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NPIC/TDS-32-67  
11 April 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Photographic Interpretation Center  
THROUGH: Chief, Support Staff, NPIC  
SUBJECT: Request for Approval of the VG-1 Vacuum Easel Project  
with the [REDACTED] to be  
Expended from FY 1967 R&D Funds  
REFERENCE: Chief, Administrative Staff, O/DDI Memorandum  
dated 4 February 1964 on: "Approval of R&D  
Activities."

1. The VG-1 Vacuum Easel Project is a four month effort to fabricate and install a prototype vacuum easel on the [REDACTED] VG-1 photographic enlarger. Four [REDACTED] VG-1 photographic enlargers are used eighty (80) or more hours a week.

2. The current procedure to hold down the photographic paper on the easel is to place weights on any curled edges; this is wasteful in use of manpower and in the cost of material that must be trimmed and destroyed. By use of weights, the paper is not held absolutely flat against the easel thus some areas of the surface are not in optimum focus. There is, therefore, not only an economic loss but more importantly, there is the possible loss of intelligence information on the copied photo.

3. Some development work has been carried out at NPIC in an attempt to produce a vacuum easel for the VG-1 enlarger. An examination of U. S. Patent Office files revealed several patents assigned to [REDACTED] (copy attached) and others assigned to [REDACTED] indicated that they had considerable experience in developing vacuum easels for photographic material. A visit to [REDACTED] disclosed that they had no interest in making a vacuum easel of the 40 by 40 inch size needed. They suggested that a local manufacturer might be capable of fabricating an easel and offered the advice that the scheme disclosed in U. S. [REDACTED] was the most successful of their vacuum easel developments.

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4. Under this 4-month project, a 40 by 40 inch vacuum easel will be fabricated and installed by the [REDACTED]. It is anticipated that a minimum amount of development work will be required since the patent contains adequate information to construct a workable vacuum easel. Pending the successful completion of the contract patent right, negotiations with [REDACTED] will be arranged either through [REDACTED] or directly with the government. [REDACTED] appears willing to negotiate for the patent rights. It is planned to have a [REDACTED] service representative present during the installation of the easel.

5. This project has been discussed with the Photographic Laboratory Branch of the Production Services Division. An evaluation of the completed vacuum easel will be made by the Technical Development Staff.

6. The attached Catalog Form, contract proposal, and U.S. Patent present the technical justification for approving this project in FY 1967.

7. It is recommended that this project be approved at a funding level of [REDACTED]

Assistant [REDACTED]

Attachments: a/s

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

ARTHUR C. LUNDAHL

Director

National Photographic Interpretation Center

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Distribution:

- Original - NPIC/SS/LB (After approval) (W/Proposal)
- 1 - NPIC/SS (w/attach.)
- 1 - NPIC/TDS/DS (w/attach.)

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